

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09974 171751Z

73

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 L-02 VO-03 CPR-01 JUSE-00

SY-04 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-07 /043 W
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R 171730Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9974

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, GH, BE

SUBJECT: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH/GEOFFREY'S BANK

REF: STATE 271110

1. GEOFFREY'S BANK, BLVD. BISCHOFFSHIEM 26, B-1000 BRUSSELS,
IS A QUITE SMALL BELGIAN-OWNED BANK WITH THREE BRANCHES.
IT TRACES ITS ROOTS BACK TO 1945. THE BANK INFORMS US THAT
IT HAS REGULAR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SCHRODER
BANKING CORPORATION, 1 STATE STREET BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY
(TEL: 269-6500).

2. WHILE THE BANK'S BUSINESS REPUTATION IS CLEAN, THE
HUSBAND (ARNO NEWMAN) OF THE BANK'S PRESIDENT AND APPARENT
OWNER HAS TWICE BEEN CONVICTED OF FRAUD (ONCE IN FRANCE AND
ONCE IN BELGIUM). THIS EMBASSY REFUSED HIM A VISA FOR
THE UNITED STATES IN 1973.

3. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES RECOMMEND CAUTION IN ANY
RELATIONSHIP WITH MR. NEWMAN BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT
GEOFFREY'S BANK ITSELF IS UNRELIABLE. THEY POINT OUT,
HOWEVER, THAT IT IS RATHER SMALL TO BE ENGAGED IN
ANY LARGE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. FIRESTONE

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